Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For example, Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application No. Hei 5-298332 titled as "Distribution system using data carrier" discloses a distribution system using a non-contact type data carrier which is capable of reading/storing the information. The merchandise specific data are stored in the data carrier, for example, the name of the product, locality, and the number of products are stored. When a product is knocked down, the ID of the buyer is added to the data carrier. When a buyer ~~sells~~ buys a product to a retailer, the ID of the retailer, the number of products, the price, and the shipping data are added. A data carrier is also provided to a dolly or a track, the information of all the products loaded on the dolly such as the number of carloads is stored in advance in the data carrier. A product is loaded automatically on the target dolly with reference to the ID of the retailer, and then loaded on a target track having a data carrier which stores the same ID.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Subsequently to step S1003a or step S1006b, an identifier of destination (receiver) of the product is set to the receiver identifier rid of the new record (step S1007). A suitable value is set to another field of the new record (step S1008). The values added in steps S1007 and S1008 are, in the same way as used in step S1002a and S1003a, given by a known method such as a method in which the identifiers are read in from a suitable list, which is embedded in advance, specified by a user each time, and any method may be used. The signature target part of the new record generated in the above-mentioned step is taken out, and set to the variable data (step S1009). The signature part 16 takes out the signer identifier from the signer private information storage part 17 and sets it to sid' (step S1010). The signer

identifier sid of the new record is compared with the ~~singer~~ signer identifier sid' read out from the signer private information storage part 17 (step S1011), and if sid is not equal to sid' in step S1011, then an error indicating that the signer is erroneous is returned and the sequence is brought to ~~an end, on~~ an end. On the other hand if sid is equal to sid', then a signer key use limit information of the signature key information corresponding to the product identifier pid is read out from the signature key use limit information storage part 27 and set to the variable m (step S1012). If m is not a positive value, then an error for indicating that the this signature key has been used already limited number of times is returned and the sequence is brought to an end, on the other hand if m is a positive value, then the sequence proceeds to step S1014 (step S1013), and the value which is obtained by subtracting 1 from m is set to m (step S1014). The signature key use limit information stored in the signature key use limit information storage part 27 is updated to the value of the variable m (step S1015). A hash value H (data, pid, sid) is calculated based on the product identifier pid set in step S1002a or step S1005b, the signer identifier sid set in step S1003a or step S1006b, and the signature target part data set in step S1009, and set to the variable h (step S1016). Herein, the hash function H() is that hash function such as SHA-1, MD5 is applied to the returned value which the function F (data, pid, sid), for example, data|pid|sid (| represents the coupling of bit strings) returns a uniformed value from the argument data, pid, sid, and the function F() and hash function are not limited specifically. The signature part 16 reads out signer private information from the first ~~singer~~ signer private information storage part 17 and sets it to the variable d (step S1017). The signature key information selection part 13 reads out the signature key information corresponding to the product identifier pid from the signature key information storage part 14, and sets it to the variable t, n (step S1018). The signature part 16 calculates the first signature value according to the equation described hereunder and sets it to the variable r1 (step S1019).

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